BRAZILIAN METAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, NEWS + 19 ALBUM REVIEWS

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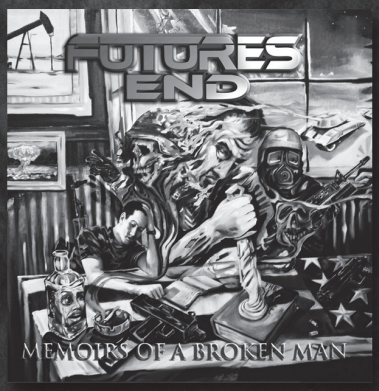

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Issue #82
Aug/Sep 2009

HEAVEN'S METAL®

NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

I'm excited about this issue of the fanzine. We are trying something that *Heaven's Metal* has never done before – dedicating an entire issue to the Christian metal of one nation (besides the continental US). For some time now, I've felt the need to better cover the very prolific South American scene. After all, the quality of metal coming out of Brazil alone has been ramping up for years … and readers kept dropping hints. In addition to the challenges of overcoming language barriers, as well as geographical barriers, it was very difficult to decide which bands to feature – there are so many talented bands! As always, we tried to pick bands that have recent releases, or in the case of Adiastasia, have a new release planned by 2010. I think you will find a nice cross-section of the Brazil scene here: thrash, death, power and melodic/prog metal equally represented. Special thanks to my "karew" mates Loyd Harp, Chris Gatto and Mark Glunt – without their hard work and perseverance this issue would have never happened. And also, a very special thanks to Flavio de Souza (our Brazil correspondent – metalmission.com) for his succinct and informative "eleventh hour" contribution. Who knows, we may try this in the future with another country. Speaking of the future: If you love the fanzine, please ask at least one friend to subscribe. As the metal print zines continue to go the way of the dinosaur, we think *Heaven's Metal* is well worth the marginal cost. Enjoy, support the artists and keep banging your head – it's medicine for the soul.

Jonathan "Doc" Swank

ELEMENTS

06 METAL TRACKS Kekal, Stryper, Sinbreed, L'N'J, X-Sinner, Ultimatum, Mastedon, and, of course, Brazil metal news & more.

10 KRIG Loyd Harp uncovers the past, present and future of this death metal band.

12 ARNION Jonathan Swank introduces us to these thrash metallers.

14 SUNROAD Mark Blair Glunt gives us an over-view of these rockers.

16 ADIASTASIA Chris Gatto helps spread the good metal virus abroad.

18 ALBUM REVIEWS 19 of 'em.

21 COLUMN Steve Rowe and Flavio de Souza, one of Pastor Bob's friends, sound off.

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METAL TRACKS

Hard-news-for-metal-heads

FROM BRAZIL, WITH LOVE

By RONEI, JR. SAO PAULO, BRASIL

Hello 'banger's around the world! My name is Ronei Jr, and my ministry here in São Paulo, Brasil is to reach the underground culture and the young people among this scene – basically headbangers and rock'n'roll scenario. Now, I want to share with you the history of one of the most important persons who really worked hard to reach people for the Gospel…This is the testimony of **Pastor Claudio Tiberius** (pictured above), the man who reached me with the Gospel: In 1985 while watching the first Rock In Rio, I prayed asking God to raise someone to preach to the metalheads. To my surprise, he told me and sent me to make a difference and speak of Christ's love for lovers of the underground scene in the late 80's. I started a job taking some friends to PRAÇA THE ROCK, bars and the street where we distributed leaflets among the headbangers. With other friends we also supported the work of new bands that would arise.

The first band that started in São Paulo was the **Martirya**. They played hard-rock based on influences from Led Zeppelin. The **Calvario** band comes up, then doing the traditional heavy metal with strong influences of Judas Priest and Iron Maiden. **Justa Advertencia** (Fair Warning), **After Death** (ES), **Necromanicider** (RJ) and **Devilcruser**, among others, were part of the Christian scene in the early 90's. In 1990, there was a great evangelism involving several people from other Brazilian states. We took a track with the words, "Metallica – Jesus Loves You" and put in front of the stage. In 1993 the first congress was held underground, called the First Brazilian White Metal Congress. Also in the early 90's, in Belo Horizonte (MG) was led by the ministry Sanctuario, with main Pastor Fábio Ramos. This turned into a church and is called Caverna Averna de Adulao. In 1993 the Refugio do Rock ("Refuge of Rock") church opened, under the leadership of Sandro Baggio that, at the time, was linked to church of the Four Square. Also in 1993, Bride came for the first time to Brazil participating in a major Christian festival. At the beginning of 1994 was the first festival of White Metal. In 1994 the band **Antidemon** came and their leader and vocalist **Antonio Carlos Batista** came in 1998 to form the Christian community Zadoque, with templates like Sanctuary Church. Today this church is called Crash church. In 1995, Refugio do Rock church hosted the band Tourniquet. I, my pastor Sandro Baggio and few people from our church helped in organizing the Mortification show in 2002, for the first time in Brazil. There were 3 major festivals that mobilized people from various parts of the country in the former church Zadoque. Today the metal and the small Christian communities are scattered all around Brazil. Some bands are still active and there are new bands: **Liberdade**, **Suprema**, **Kriger**, **Seven Angels**, **Desertor**, among others. [roneijr@gmail.com]

News bullets

The 2008 release by **Kekal**, entitled *Audible Minority*, is available in 256kbps MP3 download at gimmesound.com/KEKAL for FREE.

Ulterium Records are very proud to announce the signing of the German power metal band **Sinbreed** to the label. The band is currently working on their debut album, which will be released early 2010. Sinbreed is: **Herbie Langhans** [**Seventh Avenue**] - Vocals **Frederik Ehmke** [Blind Guardian] - Drums **Alexander Schulz** - Bass **Flo Laurin** - Guitars, Keyboards. Visit the bands Myspace profile to check out some pre-production clips. myspace.com/sinbreedmetal

Legendary Christian rock band **Stryper** will kick off their *25th Anniversary Tour* in September, touring throughout the U.S. before heading out on an international run in early 2010. In addition to their hits and fan favorites, Stryper will perform songs from their latest studio album *Murder by Pride* (Big3 Records) which was released today - twenty-five years to the day after the release of their debut EP, *The Yellow and Black Attack*. The tour will be a two set show. The first set will be new Stryper material and include current bassist **Tracy Ferrie**, along with original members **Michael Sweet**, **Robert Sweet** and **Oz Fox**. The second set will feature all four original members, including original bassist **Tim Gaines**, wearing new yellow and black stage outfits from the original designer and performing the band's hits from the last twenty-five years. The *25th Anniversary Tour* will be a family project, with **Michael Sweet Jr**.'s band **Flight Patterns** opening all dates. Flight Patterns' debut album will be released this fall on Fifty Three Five Records.

Roxx Records is proud to announce a very special limited edition reissue of the long out of print second full length release from New Mexico 's very own thrash master's **Ultimatum**. *Puppet of Destruction* was originally released over 10 years ago via Rowe Productions/Diamante and has long since been out of print. Now and for a limited time only you can pick up a very special pressing of this thrash masterpiece! And if you think you have already heard this release, think again! This release has been completely redone and remastered to perfection, with levels adjusted and instruments tweaked, this will be a true pleasure to the ears for you Ultimatum fans that have long been asking for it! This release will also contain 3 bonus tracks added to the mix to really make this a very special release! The 3 bonus tracks included consists of an alternative mix of 'Never', from the original *Puppet of Destruction* sessions along with a newly re-recorded version of 'Mortal Stomp' and closing out the disc is the much sought after Testament cover 'Sins of Omission.'

Also Roxx Records is likewise proud to announce the release of the debut solo CD from the axeman that helped define the sound of both **Deliverance** and **Fasedown**, the man. **Michael Phillips**, the album, *Mirrors within Mirrors*. *Mirrors within Mirrors* is an eccentric piece of work that if you had to define could be called an epic journey to the ear containing both progressive elements intertwined with acoustic pieces throwing in some slight touches of the defining metal and thrash.

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA
Brazil's Metal

Doc – While we realize that this list may not be all inclusive, it serves both as a good reference for the heavy metal fan, and as a testament to the scope and depth of the metal scene in Brazil.

Adiastasia – power metal [*myspace.com/adiastasia*]
Amos – power/prog metal [*myspace.com/theamosband*]
Anameniem – 80's thrash
Antidemon – death/grind [*antidemon.net*]
Apeiron – progressive metal [*apeironband.cjb.net*]
Arcanjo – thrash/deathcore
Amion – thrash [*myspace.com/arnionthrash*]
Azbuk – death metal [*myspace.com/azbuk777*]
Belica (fkaVollig Heilig) – power metal
Berith – death metal
Bless – hard rock, metal
Ceremonial Sacred – black metal [*myspace.com/cerimonialsacredfanpage*]
Clamatorious – black metal/ doom
Clean Heart – melodic metal
Clemency – thrash/ death [*myspace.com/clemencyband*]
Confinement – thrash [*myspace.com/confinementbrband*]
Desertor – hardcore/crossover [*myspace.com/desertor*]
Destra – power metal [*myspace.com/bandadestra*]
Devastation – thrash
Distarnish – death metal [*myspace.com/distarnish*]
Divine Symphony – black metal [*myspace.com/divinesymphonyfanpage*]
Dynasty – heavy metal [*dynasty.com.br*]
Empty Grave – grindcore / extreme noise
Enigma – hardcore/ classic rock [*purevolume.com/bandaenigma*]
Eterna – power metal [*eterna.com.br*]
Extreme Records/magazine [*extremerecords.org*]
Holy Throne – symphonic black metal
Imperfection – alternative/ rock [*purevolume.com/jocumdf*]
Isaque Soares – instrumental guitar [*isaque.tk*]
Kratos – hardcore [*myspace.com/kratoshc*]
Krig – death metal [*myspace.com/krigdeathmetal*]
Light Hammer [*lighthammer.net*]
Megahard Records
Mercy – black metal [*mercy-music.cjb.net*]
Metal Land webzine [*metalland.tk*]
Metamorphus – heavy metal
Miracle – melodic metal [*purevolume.com/miracle*]
Moriah – black metal [*moriah.cjb.net*]
Mortify – thrash/ death metal
Moshab – metalcore
Necromanicider – death/grind
Opprobrium (fka Incubus) – death/ thrash/speed [*myspace.com/opprobrium*]
Poems of Shadows – black metal [*myspace.com/poemsofshadowsfanpage*]
Promessa Divina
Reobote
Sabbatarium – melodic death metal
Sacramento
Saint Spirit – thrash [*myspace.com/saintspirit*]
Scelerata – power metal [*myspace.com/sceleratataband*]
Sebaoth – deathcore
Seven Angels – power metal/thrash [*sevenangels.com.br*]
Shining Star – power metal [*myspace.com/shiningstar7*]
Skymetal – death metal [*myspace.com/skymetal*]
Soul Factor – thrash
Soul Hunter – melodic power metal [*myspace.com/soulhunter*]
Spirit's Breeze – death metal
Stauros – power metal [*stauros.com.br*]
Stractum Force – power metal
Sunroad – bluesy, prog rock/metal [*myspace.com/sunroadgroup*]
Temple de Fogo – power metal
Themplo – classic melodic metal
Tribal Rites – thrash
Trino – thrash [*trinocore.com.br*]
Unnamed Project (this is the actual name of the band) – experimental metal
Vulgata – progressive metal
War Blade – stoner/ doom metal
Zurisadai – black metal
777 Distro [*777distro.cjb.net*]

Compiled by Chris Gatto & Loyd Harp

Dear Friends,
I hope this message finds you well. I have not had the opportunity of sending out my monthly newsletter in a few months, so I wanted to send out this update to keep everyone posted on my projects and upcoming performances. As you may have read in some of my past announcements or if you have been visited my websites lately, for the last 8 months I have been performing and working on projects in Brazil. I relocated to Brazil in November and everything has been great in this transition and I have already hooked up with some great Brazilian musicians here. Next month I will be touring throughout Brazil and a few other Latin American countries playing bass with Joe Lynn Turner (former vocalist of Rainbow, Deep Purple and Yngwie Malmsteen). I am producing this tour of 12 – 14 shows with my partner drummer Garry King (Jeff Beck, Paul McCartney) through our company Garnoe Productions. We will be joined on this tour with a few Brazilian session musicians and another American secessionist to perform together on this exciting tour. There is an official tour site at jltbrasil2009.com.

In other news, I just launched the update and redesigned andyrobbins.com. My new site was redesigned to feature much more news, more updated information on my projects as well I included achieves, memoirs and videos from my days with **Holy Soldier** and some information my recent tribute work with In the Flesh –Tribute to Pink Floyd. I also included a section on my site to share some of my photography from shows I have photographed including Roger Waters (in Phoenix and Verona, Italy), Australian Pink Floyd (in Miami and Phoenix) and The Doors (in Goiania, Brazil). I have continued to work new music here and I am collaborating with another writer and vocalist Arilio Netto from Brasilia. We are quite anxious to start recording this music and are targeting hitting the studio in the months following the Joe Lynn Turner tour. My official website will feature news of this and the tour dates that will follow. I look forward to sharing more news with you as my projects here continue to progress. Thank you for your continual support! [andyrobbins.com]

Roxx Productions announces a new show dedicated to the premiere Christian hard rock band **Stryper**. This new monthly series is set to feature old songs, new songs, live songs, rare songs, exclusive songs, and even solo songs that each member has contributed to or may be currently working on! Episode 1 will begin airing September 5th on these fine radio stations: almightymetalradio.com and blabberjesusradio.com. Stay tuned to strictlystryper.com for more details!

After the recent Battle of the Bands at Jaxx in Springfield, VA, the staff of the club asked **Messenger** to be an opening act for the Platinum record-selling National touring hard rock band **Extreme**! Check the guys out at messenger-metal.com.

ReinXeed has released a brand new album titled Higher filled with catchy, melodic and symphonic power metal with plenty of blazing guitar solos. myspace.com/reinxeednorth

Chained is a band from Pitea, the same city as **Laudamus** and both bands also share the same bass player, **Jonas Stenlund**. Musically Chained are influenced by bands like Pantera, Living Sacrifice and Megadeth. Their first album is called *Grateful Sinner*. [myspace.com/chainedmetal]

The Course of a Generation, the long anticipated **Namia** album is now finally released in Europe.

METAL TRACKS

Page eight

UNLIFE FOR LIFE

Hey guys from HM Magazine! My name is Junior and I'm a guitarist of a Christian band called Unlife. Give us a listen [myspace.com/unlife] and please help us to spread our message using your magazine. If you need anything please e-mail me back! I'm here for you guys. Sorry for my English and please give us a chance.
—Junior, via internet

Doc – Hey Junior, your wish is our command. We're happy to give you promo in our special Brazil metal issue. This from Unlife:

Since 2007, we have been playing and trying to be a better band every day of our lives. We are just a bunch of Brazilian dudes (and a girl) who want to make music that makes us happy to be playing it. We play music in hopes to bring glory to Jesus Christ! The music we make is not supposed to fit into any specific genre; however we could say we're a metal/hardcore/rock/gospel/circus/noise/blues/no specific/crazy band, or something between all these genres. Music is here for us to enjoy and we are here to praise and have fun! So, let's do it with much love...

WEDDING VOWS/H-METAL DUES

Doug, first let me say thank you for all of your hard work over the years. I have been a subscriber to Heaven's Metal/HM since the early 90's and I truly thank God for your magazine, and most of all, your ministry. Several years ago I subscribed to the *Heaven's Metal Fanzine*, received one issue ... and then never saw another issue! LOL I was going through a lot of health problems at the time as well as preparing to marry the love of my life and I just never took the time to call and get it straightened out. ANYWAY ... can you please tell me how to re-subscribe to the *Heaven's Metal Fanzine*? Thanks so much for your help. Peace,
—Matt, via internet

Doc – Thanks Matt, for the encouragement. We'll forgive you this time (haha) – your marriage is more important that the fanzine. Go to hmmag.com to subscribe or send $9.99 to HM Magazine, P.O. Box 367, Hutto, TX 78634.

THANKS ... A LOT

I just want to say thanks for doing the HM and Heavens Metal magazines. It gives a lot of us out here something to be a part of and I appreciate it a more than I know how to express. Keep up the good work it means a lot to a lot of people. Rock on!
—Jason Smith, via internet

AN AXE TO GRIND

Where is Ken Tamplin these days? I miss him and Shout!
—Jonathan, via email

Doc – Ken Tamplin? The last I heard he is still trying to release the new solo album, Cover to Cover. [kentamplin.com]

[nothin' but] **News bullets**

X-Sinner's founding guitar player **Greg Bishop** has recently moved back to the United States after an eight year hiatus in Australia to rejoin the band in a more traditional role. He was only recording with the band while in Australia and the band had recruited **Thom Schultman** to fill in the live performance gap in Greg's absence. Thom has chosen to step down in lieu of Greg's return commenting that "it's time since the Bish is back. I've had a ball with X-Sinner and I know we will remain great friends." **Jonah Lewis** will remain on as live bassist extreme due to original bassist **Rob Kniep**'s ongoing severe back problems prohibiting him from long travel and live performances these days.

Retroactive Records recording artist **Liberty N' Justice** is pushing forward on their much "hyped"new record *Light It Up*. The record is entering the final stages and band leader **Justin Murr** states, "If you think you know LNJ and what we sound like and what we do, prepare yourselves this is a "new" LNJ. Vic Rivera, Steve Brown, Mike Layne, and Stephen Chesney have helped me take this thing to a whole new level and everyone who has heard this has been blown away, this record rocks from start to finish!"

On Monday 15th June, **Julian Percy**, drummer for **Teramaze**, died at home due to massive complications of heart failure. myspace/teramaze

Heaven's Force, the earliest known Christian thrash metal band had their two demo's released as a limited edition digipak (500 copies) on July 21st via Open Grave Records under the title *Aggressive Angel*. The band was based out of Fort Worth, Texas and recorded two demos, the first being titled *Aggressive Angel*, which was self-released in 1983. The second demo would come a year later under the title, *Heaven's Force*. *Heaven's Force* was a collaboration between **David Gryder**, **Chris Richie**, and **Kelly Berger**. David Gryder would later go on to help form the influential thrash band Rotting Corpse with John Perez (Solitude Aeturnus). Order atdivinemetaldistro.com

Frontiers Records announces proudly the signing of **Mastedon** featuring former Kansas singer **John Elefante** for the release of the long awaited third studio album. After a few years of hiatus, John is now working on a new Mastedon album that – contrary to the predecessors – will only feature his amazing lead vocals. Musically, the new album will hearken back to the best of Mastedon and to his work with Kansas. "Mastedon has far surpassed my expectations as far as longevity and shelf life" says John. "It is time to deliver a new Mastedon record and mainly because people that loved the first 2 can't be ignored any longer. This record will differ in some ways and others it won't. Being the majority songwriter there will be obvious similarities in style. I will be singing everything, so that will change a bit from prior Mastedon projects. Also the sonic quality will be very much up to date. Rich melodic harmonies and melodies are the keys to a Mastedon record. This record will most certainly be the beginning of a new chapter in my life both musically and lyrically."

The **Lou Gramm** band released a new Christian album on July 21st. He was the lead vocalist for the rock band Foreigner for over 27 years and also had a successful solo career. Lou is now recording and touring with the Lou Gramm Band. Visit lougramm.com for more details.

For more news, visit hmmag.com/heavensmetal

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KRIG

Getting Brutal With...

BY LOYD HARP

WITH SOUTHERN METAL ON THE RISE, KRIG ARE SET TO TAKE OVER. BUT WAIT, THIS IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF SOUTHERN METAL ALTOGETHER. HAILING FROM BRAZIL, THEY PLAY DEATH METAL. AND WHAT KIND OF DEATH METAL? BROO-TAL. WHILE THEIR TWO ALBUMS HAVE BEEN RELEASED INDEPENDENTLY, HEAVEN'S METAL THINKS KRIG ARE DEFINITELY WORTH YOUR ATTENTION. LISTEN IN AS LOYD HARP CATCHES UP WITH GUITARIST ISAQUE SOARES.

Loyd Harp: Tell our readers how the metal beast known as Krig formed.
Isaque Soares: Krig was formed in January 2007 in Belo Horizonte City, initially as a side project. Our lyrics deal with social, environmental, and Christian issues. It was formed by me. After I recorded a few songs I invited an old friend and band member Daniel, from Sabbatariam. So we enjoyed the songs and decided to complete the line up. The current line up is Isaque Soares, Daniel Corpse, Vinicius Soares and Jully Soares.

Are you also in Sabbatariam or just Daniel?
I was the bassist, Daniel the vocalist and Jully was a guest female voice.

Okay, so 3 of you were in that band. Is Sabbatariam still a band?
Yeah, Sabbatariam is active, currently working on new songs; I think the new album will be awesome!

Congratulations on the completion of *Target: Human, Mission: Destroy*. I thought *Feed Me* (the band's debut) was a great release, but you have blown that away in every way. What was the recording process like for *THMD*?
I think this album is our masterpiece. We recorded drums 1st, 2nd is the guitar, 3rd bass and last vocals. The whole album was recorded in our own studio. Previous albums were recorded at the same studio, but I believe the recording process of THMD was mature.

So the final result was awesome.

Did you produce it yourselves?
Yes, we did.

The new record is so brutal. What do you think is the primary reason for this result?
The reason is learning from our mistakes. We committed many errors in the production of our previous recording sessions with our former bands. So the good part is we will not commit the same error again. In the recording of THMD we had matured in using softwares and hardwares.

How connected is Krig to others in the burgeoning Brazilian Christian metal scene? Do you get to play live shows often?
We are connected with many people and bands in Christian metal scene here. The band now is concentrated only in recording albums. We performed many live shows, but now for many reasons the band can't perform live shows anymore. But we have a gift for fans of the band: we recorded a live concert last year and expect to release a DVD and CD of this concert.

Very cool, I'll be looking forward to that for sure! With so few Christian bands commenting on global politics, justice issues and environmental issues, why has Krig chosen to speak out about these things?
Many Christian bands have their lyrics something like, "Praise God," "Jesus saves," "He is the Lord," "He is the King." We are not absolutely against bands who write lyrics in these topics. But the purpose of Krig is to be different than these bands. We wanna make some lyrics that are attractive to the secular scene. We protest against hypocrisy – all these topical issues are prevalent on our new album, with songs such as "Mercenary Pastor," which is about greed within the church, "Politicians in the Pigsty" and "Amazon Bleeds," which addresses deforestation and its damaging effects to our environment. No one is safe from us, who are unafraid to address and confront corruption and injustice wherever they see it. But in fact, every lyric you can find a Christian perspective in it. We always finish a (song) saying something about God in the lyrics. So with these aspects some people in the secular scene are really interested hearing our songs.

And to follow up, why do you think more Christian bands don't address these subjects?
Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." Many Christian bands are focused only in playing to Christians. They only make lyrics that the Christian can understand; they only want to play Christian concerts. They are not preaching the gospel to the "sick." The main objective of Christians is to preach the gospel to the world. If we are not doing this, in vain is our Christian journey. Christians must be concerned in reaching out to secular people.

Awesome! Are you able to do music full-time or do you have a 'normal' job as well?
Of course, I have a normal job. I would like to do music full-time, but I do it in my whole free time.

Tell us about your solo project(s).
I recorded three CDs: the first is a low quality CD named *Heróis de Guerra* (it was released in 2001); the second *Ritmos & Brasil* (2008); and the third *O Vilarejo* (2009). They were recorded under influences of Jazz, M.PB, Latino, Blues, Samba, Soul and Experimental. Also, there are a couple of songs that were present in the Hollywood film *On the Verge* (vergegirls.com). I just recorded a video of the virtuous song "Moto Perpetuo" of Paganini; just type, "Isaque Soares Paganini" in YouTube. Actually, I'm focused on studying and in the release of new stuff in a near future. I hope you like my songs. Check out more info at my web page [isaque.tk].

Your previous 2 albums have been released independently. Has Krig seen any label interest?
So far, the band has recorded two other albums: the debut full-length *Feed Me* (2007); the follow-up EP *Stop the Manipulation* (2008), which has the special guest Luke Renno in the vocals on the song "STM." Of course, the band is looking for a label to release this album to a wider audience. If you are interested in releasing some of our albums contact us through email [krigdeathmetal@gmail.com].

Any chance of Krig playing in N. America or Europe?
We hope to perform concerts next year in Europe and North America. Please, let us know if you know some promoter that can support us. There are some rumors about performing a concert in Cornerstone Festival 2010, but nothing is really confirmed. Please, support the band in praying and ordering our stuff, then we might have conditions to make these concerts.

What would you like to leave with the readers of *Heaven's Metal*?
I'd like to mention that I also run a Christian web magazine [metalland.tk] and a page named Christian Metal Archives [cma.cjb.net].

"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."

Awesome quote! Where is that from?
This is a quote of CS Lewis that I take to my life.

Cool.
Thanks for the opportunity.

Glad to help get the word out about Krig!
God bless every one of you!

HEAVENS METAL

ARNION
Lambs of Thrash

BY JONATHAN SWANK

ARNION (GREEK FOR "LAMB OF GOD") IS ONE SERIOUS BAND. IF THEIR CRUSHING SEPULTURA MEETS PANTERA THRASH ISN'T ENOUGH TO PUMMEL YOU TO THE FLOOR, THEN ONE VIEW OF THEIR GUT WRENCHING VIDEO TO THE SONG "HUMAN HOLOCAUST" (ON YOUTUBE) WILL CERTAINLY BRING YOU TO TEARS … AND TO YOUR KNEES. WITHOUT GIVING TOO MUCH AWAY, A FATHER IS FORCED TO MAKE A DECISION: SAVE HIS SON OR A TRAIN FULL OF SINNERS. AND THEIR LYRICS ARE FILLED WITH THESE KINDS OF THOUGHT PROVOKING, REAL LIFE SCENARIOS. WHILE THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST IS POWERFULLY PORTRAYED IN THE LYRICS, THEY HAVE A PENCHANT FOR CONNECTING WITH METAL HEADS IN A WAY THAT GARNERS A CERTAIN RESPECT. IN A WAY, THEY SUCCEED IN A MANNER AKIN TO THEIR CHRISTIAN THRASH METAL BROTHERS TOURNIQUET – A BAND WHOSE INFLUENCE IS STRONGLY EVIDENT. READ CAREFULLY THE INSIGHTFUL AND WISE RESPONSES TO MY INQUIRIES FROM GUITARIST RINALDO MACEDO DE MOURA ON BEHALF OF HIS BAND.

JS: You guys are a fairly new band in the Brazil scene, correct? Tell me a bit about the band members and how you guys all got together?
Rinaldo: Yes, we are really new to the scene. Well, starting with me (Rinaldo), I started playing in bands in the underground scene of our city location since 1989 (I'm getting old for such things); I am a student of theology in often a Presbyterian community, where I am involved with biblical teaching and lectures.

Leonardo (bass) is completing a university of music, leads the praise team in a community where he attends the Baptist church, and is the only one in the band who works exclusively in the music.

Rogério (drums) and I are old musicians on the scene, played with Light Hammer (precursor of Christian metal band of the 90s here in Goiânia) who came to open shows for the immortal Mortification and also for Bride. He works as the art director in advertising and graphic design, and also does artwork for the CD cover and MySpace.

Carlos is our youngest. Before joining Arnion, he already participated in some projects hardcore, working almost entirely in the Christian Evangelical Church in the department of missions, evangelism of urban tribes, and also works in graphic design.

Rafael (vocals), concluding at the University of Law this year, so has devoted much of his time in studies with great determination – graduated with excellence. Like many of us together, after trials and shows, he likes to talk and eat a big sandwich or a great barbecue.

Over the past decade, the Brazil Christian metal scene seems to be growing

"We are a band that plays standard thrash metal, and through this we are missionaries of Christ. The balance is needed and it is: battle for freedom and show our respect to work for everyone regardless of religion. The world is our limit."

in leaps and bounds – a wide variety of styles now represented. From Arnion's perspective, give me a brief history of the Christian metal scene there and how you guys fit into that scene. What does Arnion want to offer to or bring to the scene that is missing right now?

The Christian metal is growing much here. In the beginning of the 90's, we were united and had a good witness, thus won the sympathy of many who were not Christians. There was a connection between the headbangers and bands. At the end of the 90s, there were new Christian bands and several of them very radical – fundamentalist and immature. They acted in a biased, religious way, as well as in the time of Jesus. This meant that the Christian bands lost power and respect. Today, the scene is growing with more awareness and maturity. There are a variety of good bands coming up. All that said, it happened in our city. In April this year we played in the festival "Metanoia Fest" in Victoria (a coastal city in Brazil); this event played over 30 Christian bands from various regions of Brazil. It was clear that the scene of Brazilian Christian bands is gaining respect again. Our goal is to rescue unity and the respect we had before. We want to break the wall that separates the Christian metal and non-Christian; we believe this separation is religious, ridiculous. We are a metal band as the others. But we have our faith in Jesus and love to express this in our lyrics the same way as any band of ideology. We love to play in events for Christians, for the opportunity to fellowship with our brothers in faith. But our mission is to play in events not for Christians; then we want to be salt and light in the lives of people who do not know Jesus.

I'm hearing a bit of Anthrax, Pantera and of course Sepultura influence in your thrash/groove metal mix. What bands do you look up to or credit with influences?

We are very eclectic in examining various aspects of metal. But, in citing the influence of bands like it would be impossible not to mention Exodus, Testament, Kreator, Grip Inc., Slayer, Arch Enemy, old Metallica and the bands you mentioned.

Tell me about the song "Manipulacao S.A." – one of the strongest songs from *Fall Like Rain* – which you sing in your native language.

This music is an old composition by me, long before Arnion. When we started recording *Fall Like Rain*, we made the music for the band and everyone liked it. After recording the instruments, we had the idea to sing it in our native language. We like both the result of the seven songs that we have recorded for the next release – already in our native language.

What kind of response have you received from the release so far?

We are happy with the responses of both the public and the critics. There are good reviews and comments. This has encouraged us to produce even more and it seems that by the end of the year finish recording a new release. In 2010, we will have a new CD.

How did you guys get hooked up with Matt Hunt and Retroactive Records?

We like to say it was divine providence. In August last year, we launched the *Fall Like Rain* by the Brazilian label, The Black Tiger Company. After two months, Matt (Retroactive Records) made contact with our label to buy some copies of *Fall Like Rain*. After a short time, a new contact (was made) to negotiate the licensing and to promote our album in the USA through Retroactive Records. It was a great surprise for us and left us very happy.

It's clear from your lyrics that you desire to share your faith openly through metal. Perhaps not in Brazil, but here in the U.S. "Jesus metal" (the backbone of the Christian metal scene in the 80's) has been less popular in recent years. Some believe metal should be ministry only, some believe art only and some the more balanced approach in the middle where it's art expressed through a believer's worldview. I am interested in hearing your perspective on this issue (if this is even an issue at all in Brazil) and/or how you are received in your native land. [One goal we have for this issue is to bring out some of the differences and the similarities between the US and the Brazil scenes – that's why I'm asking this question.]

Good question. We try to share our faith with wisdom, love and respect. We believe that the ministry is personal after all, if you believe to be a disciple of Christ is certainly to be a missionary. The mission of every Christian is proclaiming the "good news" of Christ, and that is what we are trying to do. Because we are a band of Christians we have to be totally balanced and thus seek the sympathy of all. We live in a hostile world, a decadent society where many are giving the moral and ethical values. As Christians, we must transform the place we live for the better, leading the humans to religion with God. We are a band that plays standard thrash metal, and through this we are missionaries of Christ. The balance is needed and it is: battle for freedom and show our respect to work for everyone regardless of religion. The world is our limit.

Jonathan, we are very grateful for the interview and wish you and all readers of the world a life full of joy. God bless!

HEAVENS METAL

SUNROAD
Treating Deafness

BY MARK BLAIR GLUNT

IN EARLY 2000, I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE BAND SUNROAD THROUGH A PROMOTER FRIEND FROM BRAZIL. I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEIR MIX OF CLASSIC METAL AND ROCK WITH ADDED PROG ELEMENTS. SO WE DECIDED TO FEATURE SUNROAD IN THIS ISSUE OF *HEAVEN'S METAL*. I WAS SO PLEASED TO MEET UP WITH MY FRIEND, THE DRUMMER AND FOUNDING MEMBER, FRED MIKA.

Mark: So tell us about the history of Sunroad.
Fred Mika: The band begun to work in July 1996. At first, the proposal was playing covers of Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, The Cult and similar bands like this (hard rock bands with a 4 member line-up) in bars and little events. We started with four members too: vocals, guitar player, bass player and me on drums. Soon everybody felt the need to do our own compositions and to add another guitar player to get a more sophisticated sound. Later we added a keyboard replacing the second guitar player.

Who is currently in your band? And what was one of the most memorable concerts you guys have done so far?
The original line-up had changed by the first 4 years. I am the only original member. The current line up is: Jordan "Tell" Faria (vocals), Thiago Tsuruda and Anderson Lemmy (guitars, bk. vocals), Akasio Angels (bass, bk. vocals) and me, Fred Mika, on drums.

We used to play a lot in motorcycle encounters and at one of them, there was five thousand people. Next July 23rd we'll be opening for Joe Lynn Turner (ex-Rainbow, Deep Purple and Malmsteen). I think it will be a memorable show for Sunroad.

What do you think of the music scene in Brazil?
People here like pop music more than other styles of rock. Only at Sao Paulo state, the pure rock n´ roll, hard n´ heavy rock and classic rock is more stronger. Bands like Sunroad usually play in motorcycle encounters and festivals that mix several styles.

You just released a best of CD, *Ten Years Treating Deafness,* and you are about to release a new studio recording. Tell us about them.
This "best of" was released in 2008 joining songs of our four albums since then: *Heat From The Road* (1999), *Light Up The Sky* EP (2001), *Arena Of Aliens* (2003) and *Flying N´ Floating* (2006). So, as the band was founded in 1996 and the "best of" was released in 2008; that's the reason for the time. *Treating Deafness* is an ironic expression and it could be a kind of soul blindness too. The next album, *Long Gone*, originally was programmed to be released last April but our singer had a problem with his throat for three months. The CD is ready to press now, just waiting for responses of some recording labels. *Long Gone* has 11 tracks and we're back with a two guitar format. It's more direct and hard bluesy than the others.

How can people contact you?
Myspace.com/sunroadgroup. Our official web site is sunroad.com.br. Email can be sent to sun-road@hotmail.com.

Thanks so much for hanging out with us. Do you have any additional comments?
Thank you for the support and keep on rockin' always.

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ADIASTASIA

Chief Power Metal Export of Brazil

BY CHRIS GATTO

HAVE YOU EVER FLOWN OVERSEAS AND AT CUSTOMS THERE ARE ALL THESE RULES ABOUT NOT BRINGING FRUIT, ANIMALS OR VEGETATION FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY BACK TO YOUR OWN? THESE RULES ARE ENFORCED HEAVILY, BECAUSE CERTAIN PESTS AND DISEASES CAN BE SPREAD FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER, WHERE NO NATURAL PREDATORS OR IMMUNITIES ARE THERE TO KEEP THEM IN CHECK – THE JAPANESE BEETLE AND THE APPROPRIATELY NAMED STINKBUG COME TO MIND.

It makes you wonder: if these customs laws are always in place, how do you find one species of vegetation growing simultaneously in two different geographical regions with different climates and environments? Two prime examples are a Japanese maple growing in the United States, half a world away from its home, or a European birch, transplanted here to replace the indigent white birch, which was wiped out by a blight someone accidentally brought to our soil.

In the same way, the roving headbanger often finds that one style of metal indigent to a certain geographic locale pops up unexpectedly in another country. How did the Gothenburg death metal and Scandinavian black metal styles emerge in American metal bands? And more pertinent to our own story is how the particular Euro power metal strain, rooted equally in melodic speed metal and classical influence, appears also in Brazil. Amazing! Did some unsuspecting world traveler track it to South America on their shoes?

In this issue of *Heaven's Metal* we are celebrating the wonderful variety of Christian heavy metal that is native to the country of Brazil. One of Brazil's power metal exports (and a prime example of just the kind of metal irony I was describing for you) is Bombworks recording artist Adiastasia, who play a style of Euro power metal ripped right out of the pages of Stratovarius' back catalog – impressive feat for such a young band. We interrupted Adiastasia in the midst of recording their second album with a few questions for this issue:

Jeff (Adiastasia): Hi Chris! My name is Jeff Winner. I'm Adiastasia's singer and manager.

Chris Gatto: Hi Jeff! How did you pick the name Adiastasia and what does it mean?
I found "adiastasia" in a theological dictionary, between 2002 and 2003. In Greek it means "absence of separation" or "the substantial presence of God."

Please tell me a little history of the band.
Adiastasia was formed in January 2003, and we started it as a project, but it was my dream to sing metal and have a power and prog metal band to play, as a full band, not just a project. So, after some months we decided to be a band, and only those who were really committed stayed with the band – Janinho, Ryvson, Dinho and me. We played out a lot before recording our first album *Life War*. *Life War* was a good release, and gave us a good chance to grow! Some years later, Dinho was out of the band, and in December 2008 Juninho Muci replaced him on the drums. In March 2009 we started in the studio for our second album's recording … and we are now recording it – a very hard work – because we play with little money, but with great faith!

Who are your musical heroes and how do you come to play power metal?
Our musical heroes ... there are many… I'm 30 years old today; I'm the older man of the band. I started to listen to metal when I was 13, so I listened to so many bands until now – bands like Helloween, Stratovarius, Rhapsody, Dream Theater ... and today, Rob Rock also. The other guys of the band listen to almost the same, but Ryvson likes MPB and classical music more than us all! Janinho likes to listen to bands like Pantera and Metallica.

"There are some alternative ministries – some play metal and some other rock styles. I'm from a Presbyterian church and my pastor gives me strong spiritual support and he sure loves Adiastaisa!"

Is "Christian heavy metal" very popular in Brazil?
No, not yet. Sad to say, but it's only a matter of time!

How did you get signed with Bombworks Records for your first album Life War?
Well, we were introduced by a great man and great musician, Nahor Andrade (ex-vocals of Dynasty). So, David (Bixler) and Rob (Colwell) listened to our songs and they liked… lol.

Do you think the record label will open up doors in the US and other countries for Adiastasia?
Sure, I believe this label, Bombworks, already has opened many doors for us. But, if it was not God's wish, this could never happen.

How is the recording of your second album going? Do you have an album title and release date yet?
Well, this album is almost done but, you know, there are many things we need to finish before its release. I have not recorded the vocals yet, but I will record them this month. The album's title is: *War of the Worlds*; no date for release yet.

Are there any heavy metal ministries or metal churches operating in Brazil?
There are some alternative ministries – some play metal and some other rock styles. I don't know many. I'm from a Presbyterian church and my pastor gives me strong spiritual support and he sure loves Adiastaisa (lol).

Thanks, Jeff. God's grace on you guys as you finish up your recording. For all the readers out there, check out Adiastasia at myspace.com/adiastasia and look for their upcoming album *War of the Worlds* on Bombworks soon … and remember: if you have metal mud on your shoes, don't be a wuss and wipe it off! Wipe it on your friends and track it to other countries – let's spread this metal disease! ;)

Surf this: ferretstyle.com, heavymetalmedia.com, roweproductions.com, sullenrecords.com, retroactiverecords.net, metalmind.com.pl, soundmass.com, krig.cjb.net

ALBUM REVIEWS

MAYLENE & THE SONS OF DISASTER
III

Can I see a show of hands – who heard the banjo picking and crickets on the first song and did not immediately think of the movie *Deliverance*? Well, get over it, because, yes, this is Southern-fried, but it is some seriously good metal. Maylene have been honing their unique sound and each album has outshined the last. Although a friend lovingly dubs the band "hillbilly-core," they might cautiously be described as post metalcore. There are some metalcore moments, but much of the album stretches beyond that to return full circle to melodic rock once again. Maylene flies the Dixie flag proudly, but a whole lot of bluesy 80's guitar leads, like Cinderella or Bon Jovi peek through as well. So while metalcore, southern rock, and pop metal may sound like a decades of metal CD collection from some cheesy infomercial, those ingredients combined with Maylene's gritty blue collar image, great storytelling and hooks make for some great driving music. You may just find yourself checking the rearview mirror for the po-lice. [Ferret] Chris Gatto

CAGE
SCIENCE OF ANNIHILATION

A celebration is in order when a band sidesteps the machinations of the flavor of the month driven rock media to make the style of music they love themselves, and give it 110%. Few American bands are playing power metal these days, but clearly Cage is among the best in the game. Searing guitar solos, double bass work, and Sean Peck's deep piercing screams serve as a vicious onslaught to bring the traditional metal of Dio, Maiden, Priest, and Jag Panzer into the new millennium. Although not a concept album, *Science of Annihilation* continues in the same vein as *Hell Destroyer*. Album #5 contains some spiritual content (read the cover story from *Heaven's Metal* #74 for more on the band), and a whole lot of fantasy/sci-fi type themes. Play it loud and repeat often. [Heavy Metal Media] Chris Gatto

MORTIFICATION
THE EVIL ADDICTION DESTROYING MACHINE

The 100% Australian Jesus metal machine rolls on. (Perseverance is such a wonderful and elusive quality.) This time around we find Mort in full thrash mode, with classic and power metal influences. Steve Rowe's rumbling Steve Harris bass line bears witness to a huge Maiden influence on a few songs, while his straight-shooting vocals are delivered in his usual discernable growl. Adam Zaffarese lays down some fierce drumming and Mick Jelinic throws down some great thrash riffs, although it's when he's allowed to solo that the music truly shines. After a lifetime in metal, Steve still has a lot to say, and if you could walk in his shoes a mile or two, you wouldn't beat around the bush, either. Always known for great artwork, this time the digipak and Im-Mort-Alized Supporters list really gives fans the works. Check it out. [Rowe] Chris Gatto

ELGIBBOR
WAR

If you've been following Elgibbor for any length of time, you know what to expect – and that is, you never know what to expect! Sure, it'll consist of songs that fit into the black metal genre, but within that field you'll find a variety of different speeds, vocal styles, textures, etc. Throw in a few acoustic interludes to boot! Sometimes it works really well and sometimes not so much. There are some outstanding tracks on this release (generally the faster, rawer songs) and some truly mediocre ones (sadly these are often the experimental tracks). Here's hoping Fire finds a more consistent niche soon.
[Open Grave/Sullen] Loyd Harp

HERO
IMMORTAL

Mixed by Veni Domine's Torbjörn Weinesjö, the second release by Sweden's Michael Hero – who runs his own real-life School of Rock in Stockholm – is a solid collection of crunchy, mostly mid-tempo melodic rockers. The deeper vocal timbre here gives these tunes a slightly dark, almost Bowie-esque quality; Evergrey's Tom Englund comes to mind, but Hero doesn't display the kind of dynamic range of a Tate. Still, it's probably this vocal approach that distinguishes these guys from the masses of melodic metallers out there. Musically, the songs are catchy (particularly the anthemic "Rock The World"), the focus clearly more on melody than technicality. The mix is vibrant, and holds up very well to high decibel play. [Retroactive] Jonathan Swank

OPPROBRIUM
MANDATORY EVAC

Opprobrium started as Incubus in 1985 and has released four albums since then, this one after an eight year silence. *Mandatory Evac* was written about the personal trials of Moises and Francis Howard during Hurricane Katrina, yet the album falls flat when compared to previous releases. The Brazilian brothers play a mix of speed metal, thrash, and death metal as before, but they currently sound similar to more recent Mortification, with raspier vocals, like Kurt Bachman of Believer. Also noteworthy is the lack of spiritual content compared to their earlier albums. Metal Minds from Poland released this album, as well as nicely packaged rereleases of the band's first three albums. Opprobrium is an excellent extreme metal band, but for the uninitiated, try *Serpent Temptation* first. [Metal Minds] Chris Gatto

SCOURGED FLESH
WELCOME TO THE END OF THE WORLD

Deathcore with an occasional hint of blues metal a la Once Dead, this is a decent release despite the overbearing vocals that are too loud in the mix. Fortunately, the band doesn't take their apocalyptic lyrics too seriously, as they even "sing" the guitar solo on one song. There is nothing new here, but the solos are well done and give us a glimpse of the band's overall potential. [Soundmass] Chris Beck

KRIG
TARGET: HUMAN, MISSION: DESTROY

THMD is the second full length from this Brazilian death metal band. Instrumentally the band excels, bringing a highly technical flair to their thrash/death metal mix. A "marching band" drum tempo popping up throughout the album and constant changeups keep things fresh and exciting. However, the death metal growls don't seem to complement the music as well. The lyrics and overall image seem very aggressive with songs like "Mercenary Pastor" or "Politicians in the Pigsty" and cover art showing naked human cattle being brainwashed, yet upon close examination much of the lyrical content echoes the Psalms. Krig ranks high on the "your mom will hate this" meter, especially for using the "b" word once, but content is quite biblical, and I would recommend them to Tourniquet and death metal fans. Found at nhmetal.com or divinemetaldistro.com. [Indie] Chris Gatto

extremerecords.org, sunroad.com.br, retroactiverecords.net, symbolsunveiled.com, myspace.com/insidemankind, bombworksrecords.com, myspace.com/messengerdc

DIVINE SYMPHONY

THE HISTORY

After showing significant potential on their debut album, *Reject Darkness*, this Brazilian sextet has delivered an excellent follow-up with influences from Crimson Moonlight, Dimmu Borgir and Slechtvalk. After getting past the semi-controversial album cover, you will hear easily-accessible symphonic black metal filled with memorable classic metal-inspired riffs. The lyrics tell of the role of Christianity at key times in the history of mankind, such as the age of martyrdom and the Reformation. Interesting stuff. [Extreme] Chris Beck

SUNROAD

TEN YEARS TREATING DEAFNESS

This is a "best of" collection from the Brazilian melodic hard rock band Sunroad. But to call them merely hard rock is not sufficient because there are elements of progressive rock in their recordings as well. All the lyrics are in English. Overall their music reminds me much of UFO, MSG and early 90's Holy Soldier. Their guitar solos are very well placed and tend to sing and shred as needed. The vocals are melodic and for the most part are sung with power. The thing that flips my switch about this band though is their instrumentals. This is where they explore music quite a bit, moving in and out of riffs, odd voicing's and time changes. The downside of the CD would be the production. It's not bad, but lacks the meatiness of most recordings these days. Still, if you are a fan of melodic metal and progressive rock it's really worth getting a copy. Since there is limited distribution in the USA, you'll have to contact them directly at myspace.com/sunroadgroup. [Allegro] Mark Blair Glunt

KREYSON

20 YEARS OF KREYSON

Wow! Not only have they revitalized many of the songs from their first two releases so that they ring with greater sonic clarity, but – if I'm not mistaken – they have changed the lyrics and the song titles to many of these scorching tunes, all the while retaining the riffs and melodies. Bolder than ever, this veteran Czech ensemble sounds … yeah, fantastic! And there is no mistaking their message this time around. Fans of Scorpions who want an uplifting and Christ-centric message need look no further. [Retroactive] Jonathan Swank

MAIN LINE RIDERS

WORLDSHAKER

Uh … did I mistakenly stick in AC/DC … hmmmm … no, I guess not. Well, the comparison to the Bon Scott era of AC/DC is impossible to escape, but it works, and it works well on this release. Musically and vocally it screams old-school, but in a positive cruisin' down the highway, rock-n-roll-party-all-night sort of way. Good old hard rock and roll is back and I can only imagine how fun these songs would be live. [Retroactive] Jeff McCormack

SYMBOLS

LUCIFER'S LULLABY

Here's some crunchy, riff-driven post-grunge Creed rock, reminding me of Krush/Stricken and even Staind, although feeling a bit more laid-back – though no less emotive – than the aforementioned bands. The big arena rock vocals work well enough but fans of traditional hard rock and metal will probably pass on this. However, fans of late 90's and onward radio rock should enjoy. [Indie] Jonathan Swank

INSIDE MANKIND

ANGEL'S FIRE

Italian symphonic/power Jesus metal! The music on this 4 song EP reminds me of an older band from the 90's called Lightmare, but the strongly accented female vocals push this strongly into the Nightwish vein. And while these songs would be considered average by the genre's competitive standards, this band – replete with skillful players – shows a lot of promise. [Indie] Jonathan Swank

DARK LAY STILL

THROUGH HELL...

I have really enjoyed this album so far, I guess its blackened symphonic melodic death metal with vocals that vary from high screams to low growls. I find the keys to be an intricate part of the compositions, adding real beauty to them. All the while the songs maintain true intensity and a harsh atmosphere. This album is really pretty solid work, and I find that I enjoy it turned up to full volume whilst speeding down the expressway. [Bombworks] Michael Larson

STRYKEN

FIRST STRIKE (SE)

Many fans, if they remember Stryken at all, know them for the song "Rock On" on an early K-Tel Christian metal compilation. Stryken's *First Strike* album from '87, with its Queen-meets-Crüe glam metal styling, was a rarity until being rereleased in all its lo-fi glory in '06 by Girder Records. This '09 special edition release in digipak format adds the even rarer 9-song *Blitzkrieg* demo from '83, when the band went by the name Stryker. While still in the hard rock/ pop metal format, the earlier *Blitzkrieg* songs are reminiscent of late 70's Diamond Head or Y&T, without the "over the top" (or one might say "over the line") showmanship that *First Strike* would turn out to be. Get out the hairspray and spandex for a trip down memory lane. [Retroactive] Chris Gatto

DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN

KINGS TO YOU

Symphonic deathcore is probably the best description I can think of for *Kings To You*. This album is a pretty well honed slab o' metal, with guttural vocals, atmospheric keyboards, brutal riffs, slamming drumming skills and even some fancy pants guitar playing to boot. It seems like this album will be one of those that takes time to work its way into your heart, but once its there, it may never die. [Bombworks] Michael Larson

A HILL TO DIE UPON

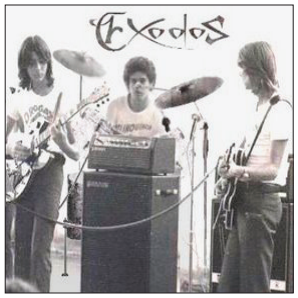
INFINITE TITANIC IMMORTAL

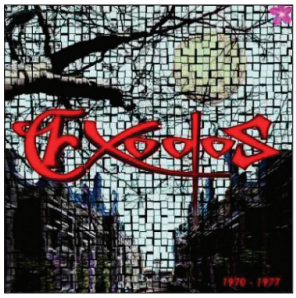
From the first pummeling riff to the last, this album slays. Imagine an American Immortal with the singer from Dimmu Borgir. Now I know they don't sound like this exactly, you get the gist of the sound. Top of the tier blackened death metal. Great riffing, solid production, interesting concepts with well crafted songs. I really couldn't ask for much more in an album from anyone. [Bombworks] Michael Larson

MESSENGER

I'M TALKING TO YOU

One phrase comes to mind when listening to this disc: old school. Everything about this release screams late 70's to early 80's Christian rock/metal … and I mean that in a good way. The classic hard rock/metal sounds remind me of the heavy guitar power of early Rez, Daniel Band, Barnabas, Darrell Mansfield and all such bands of the era. Lyrics are very up-front and in-your-face evangelical, leaving no doubt as to their message. If you dig classic rock, check this out. [Independent] Jeff McCormack





[Antidemon, Exodus & Calvario]

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE CHRISTIAN ROCK/METAL MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL

By Flavio de Souza | Translated by Rosemari de Melo Souza [Edited by Jonathan Swank]

Rock and roll started to show its Christian branch in the 70´s. Under the prejudice of the evangelical church – that labeled it as satanic music – and in the middle of the dictatorship regime – that controlled Brazil and assumed that every rocker was a rebel – came the band **Exodus**. From a Baptist church in São Paulo, Exodus was the first Brazilian Christian rock band (in 1970). They played in many gigs, recorded some stuff and in 1977 ceased activities.

Another pioneer band was formed in the late 70´s, **Rebanhao**, which was born in Sao Paulo, but soon moved to Rio de Janeiro. In 1981, they released their first album. In that time, several young Christians adopted rock and roll as an evangelism tool, starting to play in bands and motivating people to read the Bible and to get to know God´s Word. Still in the 80´s, some groups as **Sinal de Alerta**, **Catedral** and **Katsbarnéa** started their activities.

Alternative evangelism in Brazil grew stronger in the 80´s. In that time, S8 Community in Rio de Janeiro and Christ Saves Church in Sao Paulo attracted young people from different origins, emphasizing the saving Gospel and not rules and traditions that were prevailing in evangelical churches. S8 Community created a center to support and recover drug addicted people.

Christian metal was growing in Brazil in the 80´s. Evangelists Pastor Fábio Ramos de Carvalho and Cláudio Tiberius, self-sacrificing people based on the Bible, spread the Word of God among metalheads. Pastor Sandro Baggio also shared the same vision and established Refúgio do Rock, a Christian community which supported alternative evangelism, as well as *White Metal Detonation Fanzine*.

Back to Pastor Fabio ... he was a reference of leadership in this area much like Bob Beeman in the USA. He lived in different Brazilian states and also in England, preaching the Gospel to transvestites, drunks, metalheads, skinheads, prostitutes, drug addicts, etc. He created Caverna de Adulao, in Belo Horizonte, which is still active. He died precociously in 2007, at the age of 42, but he left a legacy of faith and love which won't be forgotten.

In 1990, with the Catholic Charismatic Movement, pioneers of Catholic Christian rock such as **Rosa de Saron**, **Cristoativiade** appeared; and in 1995, **Eterna** – the most important Brazilian Catholic band – started its career. However, one of the first heavy metal bands to record a demo-tape, *No Warning* (from **Santos** – SP), is almost unknown.

In the early 90´s, there were several Christian communities dedicated to alternative evangelism in Brazil. Nowadays, there are a lot of them, from where many hard rock, punk/hardcore, metal bands, etc., came up. From '91 to '93 the first Christian metal bands appeared in Brazil, such as **Kletos**, **Martíria** and **Calvário** (heavy metal), **Projeto Eterno** and **Candelabro** (hard rock), **Justa Advertencia** and **Ruptura** (punk), **Saved**, **The Joke**, **Tribal**, **Afterdeath**, **Trino**, **Deliver** (thrash), **Tormented Death**, **Necromanicide** and **Devilcrusher** (death metal).

The following year (1994), the rock scene had a boom, with dozens of bands everywhere, and among the most known ones were **Amos** and **Antidemon**. The recordings were available only in tape format, and **Martyria** was the first band to do so. In 1993, **Calvario** released the first Christian metal LP, *I.X.O.Y.E.* In '95, Refúgio do Rock released a compilation with 10 bands: **Kletos**, **Antidemon**, **Devilcrusher**, **Necromanicide**, **Kolapso**, **Kipper**, **Justa Advertência**, **Juízo Final**, **Theosophy** and **The Joke**. The first professional CD – essentially heavy metal only – came in 1997 with **Stauros** – *O sentido da Vida* (*The Meaning of Life*). The first demo CD was *Power of God* in January '98 by **Vollig Heilig**.

Festivals started to happen, too. A big event took place in '98 when Christian Metal Force, a ministry of Renascer em Cristo Church, organized the C.F. Festival with 20 bands, putting together people from different parts of the country. The same church also created S.O.S. da vida in 1991, a mega festival with Christian artists of different musical tendencies. In that event, bands such as Bride, Whitecross and Boanerges performed. In 1999, the first edition of Metanoia Festival happened in Vitória. Ten years after, it's the biggest Christian underground festival, bringing thousands of fans together and dozens of bands playing. There are 3 editions in different places in Brazil.

Other important aspects for the growth of the Christian scene in Brazil were fanzines and radio programs. *White Metal Detonation*, *King´s Metal*, *Metal Mission*, *Christian Rock* and *Força Eterna* were some of the most representative ones. Nowadays, with the advent of internet, fanzines have almost disappeared, and the one that is still active and with professional format is 11 year-old *Extreme Brutal Death*, which is also the most regular label in the Brazilian Christian metal scene, with several titles released.

The underground Christian scene in Brazil is huge nowadays. There are lots of Christian communities, ministries working with homeless children, alcohol dependants, drug addicts, prostitutes and transvestites; hundreds of missionary bands and thousands of true Christian people involved in the scene. Traditional churches are more open to this evangelistic way. However, in the middle of this growth, boasting and pride can be found. One can tell there are people with selfish motivation, without a missionary call, just taking advantage of the moment, either bands or fans, even inexperienced leaders. But by this the Word of God is fulfilled: the tares and wheat would grow together, but in the judgment day they will be put apart from each other.

THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET

By Steve Rowe

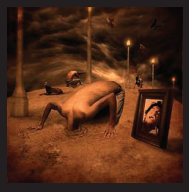
TOO MUCH QUAIL

One thing I have learned as life has gone on is to be very careful what I ask God for, especially if the asking involves grumbling about something. I have a friend that I met in recent years. He was a champion basketball player when he was young. He played for one of Australia's top national basketball teams, the Melbourne Tigers, at the age of 20 – a team from which many players have gone on to represent Australia at The Olympics.

This guy grew up in a Christian home, but was always grumbling about going to church with his parents. As soon as he was able, he quit going to church because he did not want to follow the Christian faith. But his parents kept praying for him and talking to him about the Lord. One afternoon, whilst out on a training run, he stopped at a park, climbed a playground ladder and sat on top of the playground house. He grumbled to God, "God, I do not believe You are there. Life is way too easy. I don't need You. I am a national basketball player. If You want me to believe in You then You need to make my life harder." One week later while on a training ride he crashed into the back of a stationary car and instantly became a quadriplegic. He is now a strong man of faith in Jesus with partial use of one arm!

In Exodus Chapter 16:12 and13 it says (God speaking to Moses), "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them at twilight you will eat meat…" That night quail came and covered the camp. God did send meat, but so much that the people could not even walk around without stepping on quail! They ate quail all day and night and everywhere there was quail on quail! Ha ha! Quail is not easy to eat. Quail are a small bird with a lot of feathers and very little meat. I love this story, because it shows God's sense of humor. "Ok, here is your meat and it is everywhere, all over and difficult to eat!" The ultimate lesson in answer to grumbling when asking God!

I asked God to help me reach the world's heavy metal music scene with His truth. I remember seeing Stryper in 1987 and grumbling to God. "Why can't You use me like that, God?!" I asked. So He did, and has and I am grateful for his blessing on my vision. But notice the focus was on "me." Over the years, through many struggles that continue today with health, finances and people letting me down, I have learned to quietly follow God's leading in my music mission. But if we grumble and focus on what "we" want, God can still give it to us, but it may not be packaged the way we had envisioned.



Roxx Records is proud to announce the release of the debut solo CD from the axeman that helped define the sound of both Deliverance and Fasedown, the man… '*Michael Phillips* ' the album… '*Mirrors within Mirrors*' He even recruited a little help from his friends for this one including some very special guest appearances from Jim Chaffin (Crucified, Fasedown), Mark Solomon (Crucified, Stavesacre), Jimmy Brown (Deliverance, Jupiter VI), Devin Shaeffer (Fasedown, Once Dead) , Matt Davis (Oh Sleeper) , Bill Bachman (Neal Morse) and Scott Waters (Ultimatum, Once Dead)

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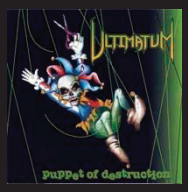

In the late 80's Thresher would release a limited edition demo called Totally Possessed that would catch the attention of the Christian thrash scene. 'Here I Am' was to be their break through album, and was recorded live in the studio with very few overdubs at Lifeline Studios in Pennsylvania. But ultimately the band would begin to deteriorate as they battled to try and balance both music and their personal lives. The album would ultimately never be released and has been locked away for close to 20 years, until now!! **AVAILABLE NOW!**

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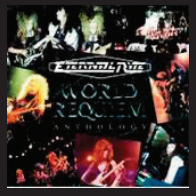

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